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# The Squid's Ink

## Notes From the Editors

We wanted to remind you that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Why should you care? According to the National Cancer Institute, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in American women. The risk of breast cancer increases as women get older. No one knows why some women develop breast cancer and others do not. Researchers have identified certain characteristics, called "risk factors," that influence a woman's chance of getting the disease. Still, many women who develop breast cancer have no known risk factors other than growing older, and many women with known risk factors do not get breast cancer. The best chance for survival is early detection. Call Moffitt Cancer Center at 1-800-456-3434 and ask for the Lifetime Friends program. They will send you a free kit containing shower cards and stickers that will help remind you to do this lifesaving exam on a regular basis.

Also in this issue we are pleased to bring you "Hurricane Hunter" - our first national scoop (watch out Dan Rather!). Using our connections, we have a behind-the-scenes look at this year's hurricane season so far.

Finally, we encourage you to sit down in front of your computer with this issue in hand and take a few minutes to email your comments to Boris, Carol, and Mark regarding their respective surveys.

## Condolences

Our sincerest condolences go out to the following people who all lost loved ones last month: Flo Cole, Kathy Seastrom, and Lisa Vanderbloemen.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the new MSAC officers: Heidi Crevison – President, Jay Law - Vice President, Michelle McIntyre – Treasurer, Lisa Vanderbloemen – Secretary. We look forward to many great things from you!

Congratulations to two former USF couples: Dawn Olson & Scott Daeschner and Angela Strub & Eric Siegel. Both couples tied their respective knots last month.

## WWW News

All Wacky Wednesday Wunchtimes for this month are available. Keep this program going and contact Jyotika Virmani to present something. If anyone would like to volunteer to take over WWW, please step forward and contact Jyotika. If there are no volunteers by October 15<sup>th</sup>, WWW will be on sabbatical for the rest of this semester, and Jyotika will resume WWW in the new millennium.

## Library News

*By Boris Galperin*

The Nelson Poynter Library should be receiving some enhancement money soon which can be used for the acquisition of books and study materials (but not journals). DMS faculty and students are encouraged to submit their requests directly to me to be included in my proposal for the enhancement money. Please respond via email (boris@nekton.marine.usf.edu). The deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Events**

**Oct 5, Blood Drive, 8am-4pm, FMRI circle**

**Save a life and receive a free t-shirt and cholesterol screening, and be entered to win USF Bulls tickets. Bring your ID.**

**Oct 7, Edgar Allan Poe died on this date in 1949**

**Oct 11, Columbus Day observed**

**Oct 16, National Boss Day**

**Oct 24, Full Moon**

**Oct 28, The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on this date in 1886**

**Oct 31, Halloween  
Daylight Savings Time ends: turn back your clocks**

## To Oktoberfest or Not to Oktoberfest, That is the Question

*By Carol Steele*

For the past few years the Center for Ocean Technology (COT) has opened its doors to the rabble-rousing hordes of this department. COT has given you an opportunity to meet the staff and engineers, to see what they do, to drink beer, and to eat hot dogs, brats, and even Gardenburgers in honor of Oktoberfest. This year we are deliberating whether to hold this open house or not. What do you think? Have you enjoyed it in the past? Did you see something interesting that might help with your work? Is there anything we can do differently? Please take a minute to send your comments to me ([csteele@marine](mailto:csteele@marine)). If you don't, there may not be an Oktoberfest celebration this year.

## A Good Deed

*Submitted by Nan Schmidt & Lisa Young*

The blood shortage projected for early next year may mean that people will soon have to postpone elective surgeries. Why the shortage? Demand has been rising, but donations have been decreasing by 1% a year. Worsening matters, the government has banned donations from people who spent more than a total of six months in Britain between 1980 and 1996, the years of the mad cow disease epidemic. This could protect the blood supply from the newly discovered strain of the fatal brain disorder called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), linked to mad cow disease in Britain. However, it will reduce the blood supply by another 2% a year. No cases of this new disorder have been reported here; the precaution is against a theoretical risk.

With supplies diminishing, it is more important than ever to give blood. Only 5% of Americans currently donate. You can safely donate blood every 8 weeks. The discomfort is minimal. You'll be making a big difference to people in need, and the juice and cookies are free! (Modified from the Oct. 99 issue of *The Wellness Letter*)

## Silent Auction

You may have noticed that various items from the student lounge are cluttering up the hallways in MSL. You have the once in a lifetime opportunity to actually take some of that fine furniture home. There is a silent auction to benefit the MSL student lounge, and it will end on October 4<sup>th</sup> at exactly 5pm. All money raised will be used to buy new furniture and other items for the lounge.

The items for auction have white auction sheets attached to them. Some items have minimum bids already on them. The yellow cushioned couch and chair by the entrance door to MSL is really highly priced because they are

antiques and Terri has big plans for them (refinishing and replacing in the lounge). However they will be sold to the highest bidder, based on the minimum price, if someone wants them.

If you have items you would like to donate to be included in the auction (the money will go towards student lounge furniture) please contact Terri Slifko ([slifko@seas](mailto:slifko@seas)).

If you would like to bypass accumulating furniture, and simply donate money, that would also be highly acceptable. All donations and money raised from the auction should be paid by checks made out to MSAC. Please contact Terri Slifko or Heidi Crevison for more information.

## Hurricane Hunter

*By Jack Parrish*

*Ed. Note: Jack Parrish is a student in Bob Weisberg's lab. Jack also works for NOAA as a Hurricane Flight Director.*

We spent most of June and all of July flying out of Nashville with a P-3, sniffing ozone and other anthropogenic and natural gases, concentrating on the Nashville and Atlanta urban plumes. The plumes started late and continued for a long time, but the plane had the most sophisticated array of gas and particle samplers yet in a long string of NOAA air chemistry, so we were thrilled we could lead the airborne effort.

Early August marked the switch to tropical cyclones, with hurried flow angle calibration flights to ensure reliable wind measurements, and several Gulf flights to characterize the Loop Current in detail using aircraft expendable bathythermographs, current probes, and XCTDs (expendable CTDs). These Gulf flights represent a lot of effort and expense, in the hope

that a tropical cyclone will pass over the region, to test the 'boost' hypothesis of Shay et al., regarding the deep heat source region provided by the main Loop and spinoff eddies. While Harvey was sort of in the right location, it was far too baroclinic to fit the profile. We still have about one month left in the Gulf season, so keep your fingers crossed!

Most of the rest of my 1999 season has been spent on the G-IV high altitude plane. We were a day late getting into Bret, but still caught both the rapid intensification and the turn west toward landfall. The threats to major population centers in Hurricanes Bret, Dennis, Floyd, Gert (the Leeward Islands and Bermuda) and Harvey tilted much of this year's research toward profiling the steering flow of these storms.

These were large-scale patterns with only a few eye passes per flight, usually flown at about 4-6 km altitude. The only real inner-core intensives we've had so far were the landfalls of Bret and Floyd.

Our big stories so far this year, other than grinding flight schedules, were characterizing the steering flow north and east of Floyd that helped the GFDL model (among others) accurately capture and forecast Floyd's northward turn just before a catastrophic landfall on Florida's east coast, and at last getting a reliable real-time surface wind algorithm using the down-looking Step Frequency Microwave Radiometer (it uses the radiometric signature of surface spray to deduct surface winds). This real time data is now part of our transmissions to the Hurricane Center, and is super for helping us determine where to do our eyewall dropsondes to vertically profile the areas of strongest winds and greatest shears.

On the visual side, we found the 1999 storms had large, steady-state eyes that changed slowly and did not undergo concentric eyewall cycles; surprising, considering how strong several of the cyclones have been. The rides at our assigned high altitudes have been fairly unspectacular, nothing worse than moderate turbulence, and only two lightning strikes so far this season.

From the jet, we were treated to a spectacular view down into the tilted center of tropical storm Emily. The NOAA planes have been staged from Miami, Savannah, Tampa, New Orleans, Providence, Bermuda, Barbados, and St. Croix so far this season.

## Inquiring Minds Want to Know

*By Mark Hafen*

More about the books that you have read over the years that have most influenced your life

**Mark Hafen:** "The Razor's Edge" by W. Somerset Maugham, "The Drifters" by James Michener, and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien. "The Razor's Edge" contained the most sane, profound, and compelling discussion of spiritual philosophy I've ever encountered. It changed my entire approach to life. I've read "The Razor's Edge" half a dozen times since I first read it in high school, and I've gotten something new from it each time (skip the movie, though). "The Drifters" captured the essence of the 1960's, in a way that helped me understand why I relate to the ideals of that era. Third on the list, by virtue of simply being truly riveting stories, would be Tolkien's "Rings" trilogy. I actually called in sick to work several times so I wouldn't have to stop reading!

**Lizz Singh:** "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, "Among Whales" by Roger Payne, and "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn. "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" is about a young

girl, who loves to read, coming of age in the early 1900s. This really gave me some insight into what life was like for my grandmother, and to a certain extent, for my mother as well. "Among Whales" further cemented the fact that I am, in fact, in the right field of study. "Ishmael" is a truly thought-provoking and entertaining book that always makes you want to turn the page for more.

**Carol Steele:** There are two books that have been very influential in how I look at the world. The first is "In a Different Voice" by Carol Gilligan and the second is "Composing a Life" by Mary Catherine Bateson. The first book is important in that it shows that women and men in this country are different in part because they are socialized to be different. Men are taught to view themselves and others in a hierarchical fashion, immediately knowing if they are "above" or "below" that individual. Women, on the other hand, are socialized to relate to others, so that they see a relationship in all of their interactions. This relates to studies done on scientists that say that men may publish more, getting their stuff out before others can scoop them. Women may publish less frequently than men, but tend to be longer and more thought out in what they have to say. The second book involves in-depth interviews with five women, who learned at some point that life is not linear, but more cyclical. The same issues tend to crop up over time, and each time we face them and work on them, we solve some part of the issue important to us at that time. Both food for thought as we make our way through life's journey!

## Best of '99 Update

In the last issue we asked you what is your favorite CD of 1999 (so far)? Either everyone agreed with Sarah Tebbens choice of The Chieftains album, or you just forgot to respond. It's not too late! Give us the title and artist, and a few sentences about why you like the CD so much. Email your responses to Lizz or Jyotika ASAP!

# Philosophical Cerebration

By Bob Helber

## Why do people die for luxury?

Racing cars hit walls, fly up into the air, and roll end over end at speeds near 200 mph. Usually the drivers walk away unharmed. Why is it then, that people in ordinary street cars die every day at much lower speeds?

Obviously, ordinary street cars do not have the extensive cages surrounding the cockpit and the double shoulder harnesses that race cars do. Also, race cars are much lighter so at high speeds the momentum is reduced by minimizing weight. My conclusion is that if ordinary street cars were made lighter, had more extensive cages and harnesses, people would be safer.

The question is why aren't ordinary cars made lighter and why don't they have more extensive cages and harnesses? Cars are getting lighter, but more unstable, and their inherent danger is curbed only slightly by devices that are expensive and add weight. The cars I'm talking about are Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and the devices are airbags, antilock brakes, and red brake lights in the rear window.

It seems to me that this misdirection in the car industry is due to the desire for luxury. Nobody wants to crawl into the window of their car, squeeze into a bucket, and strap on shoulder harnesses to get to work. I've heard people say that they want SUVs because they are safer, but I'm not sure that is the case. Certainly they are not safer for other people in smaller cars. If ordinary cars went more towards the direction of race cars then less gas would be consumed, cars would perform better, and people would be safer. Besides, if everyone drove racing cars then the speed limit on the highways could be increased to 180mph and that would be really fun!

# Inquiring Minds Want to Know – Part 2!

By Mark Hafen

In this issue of the Squid's Ink, we continue our "inquiring minds want to know" series by asking you about your favorite movies. We've all seen movies that have made us laugh or cry or made the hairs on the backs of our necks stand up. But which films top your list and why? I suspect that most of our favorite movies will come from our favorite genres (sci-fi, adventure, comedy, etc.). But often, there is one film that stands out as being memorable, inspiring, or just so well done that no other can compare.

So tell us your all-time favorite or most memorable movie and why it holds that lofty position. And while you're at it, tell us the \*worst\* movie you've ever had the misfortune to sit through. Send your entries to Mark Hafen (mhafen@seas, x1183, or MSL 222H) and we'll publish them in subsequent issues of *SI*. Inquiring minds want to know \*more\* about you!

And to kick off this series, I will tell you about my all-time favorite movie. "The Lion in Winter" was released in 1968. It is a British-made film, starring Katherine Hepburn and Peter O'Toole, with early performances by Anthony Hopkins and Timothy Dalton. It garnered several Oscars, including best actress for Katherine Hepburn (her third) and best screenplay adaptation.

The story follows the power plays between aging King Henry II of England (O'Toole) and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine (Hepburn), whom he keeps imprisoned in a tower, bringing her down only for holidays and occasions of state. The solitude provides Eleanor much time to scheme, and during her periods in court, both she and Henry attempt to gain the political upper hand, manipulating their three sons in the process. Two of the sons (Hopkins and Dalton) have schemes of their own, as they vie for the top spot in the royal succession.

What makes this film my benchmark for all others is its complete package of story, performances, and direction. The acting is flawless and the direction is tight and lively. There are no "slow" moments while we wait for something to happen. We get swept up in the plot, yet are constantly switching allegiances along with the characters, as each undermines the other in increasingly devious fashion. We can allow ourselves to be amused by their actions only by reminding ourselves that thankfully we aren't on the receiving end.

Hepburn is spectacular, vascillating from the conniving shrew that lives to see her husband weakened, to the emotionally wounded woman devastated by the fact that Henry has never loved her. I would venture to say hers is one of the best on-screen performances of all time (but then again, I worship the ground she walks on!).

For the worst movie, I have a couple of entries. Most recently, "Cabin Boy", starring Chris Elliot was the biggest waste of celluloid I have ever experienced. (That I actually paid to go see that piece of junk had a lot to do with it.) Classically bad, and yet amusing, was "The Horn Blows at Midnight", starring Jack Benny, a very old movie about angels sent to earth to bring about the end of the world, only to be corrupted into shirking their duties. Get a hold of that one sometime and see just how awful a screenplay, direction, and acting can be.

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FOR NOV. ISSUE

## ULS Day

*Submitted by Sudsy Tschiderer*

November 18 is Use Less Stuff Day. To prepare you for this, I would like to offer this information from the latest edition of the *ULS Report*. How can you use less stuff and make effective environmental choices?

\*Choose a place to live that reduces the need to drive.

\*Make your next car more fuel-efficient.

\*Eat less meat, especially red meat.

\*Buy organic produce whenever possible.

\*Improve the efficiency of home appliances and heating and cooling systems.

Here are some items that we typically worry about:

\*Cloth vs disposable diapers: the environmental impacts are not that different. The real issue should be fewer babies to put in the diapers!

\*Paper vs plastic bags: no big difference. Take fewer of each, bring your own bags, and reuse bags.

\*Disposable plates, cutlery, and napkins: in moderation, their impact is small, but don't use them every day.

\*Spray cans and styrofoam: neither is made using ozone-depleting chemicals anymore, so moderate use is not a big deal.





the text box shading to improve the print quality. Can that be done?

A: Yes. To change the shading or color of a text box, select it and double click its borders to open the Format Text Box dialog box. Click the Colors and Lines tab and then choose the new color from the Color drop-down list in the Fill section.

Q: What's the best way to print this newsletter?

A: Print page 2 on the back of page 1. Fold in half and mail with or without an envelope. For best results, use a medium to heavyweight paper. If you're mailing without an envelope, seal with a label.

Q: I would like to use my own clip

Q: I would like to change some of

